GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3695
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Witness Protection
Lakhanpal Shri Raghav

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides protection/security to witnesses in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has received complaints with regard to attack/
murder of witnesses in the country;

(c) if so, the total number of such cases reported, guilty arrested and the action taken against them during each of the last three years and the current year, State and UT-wise; and

(d) the effective steps taken by the Government to provide security to witnesses and the details of witness protection programme in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): The 198th Report of the Law Commission of India on 'Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programme' has been circulated to the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations for consultation. There are provisions in Section 195A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 195A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to provide legal recourse to the witnesses. Details of instances of protection/security to witnesses are not maintained centrally. Further, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting criminals. The Union Government, however, attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crime and therefore, has continued to urge the State Governments/ UT Administrations to give more focused attention towards improving the administration of criminal justice system and taking such measures as are necessary for prevention and control of crime within their respective jurisdictions.
******